

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wienhold (European Pat. No. EP 0 013 012, hereinafter “Wienhold”). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wienhold in view of Simons (U.S. Pat. No. 2,088,040, hereinafter “Simons”).

In claim 1, the sentence “by manual pressure mounting” has been amended to “only by manual axial pressure mounting” to make clear that the annular projection 22 of the threading die 11 is manually fitted into the annular projection 20 of the support 6 by exerting only an axial pressure on the coupled members.

In Wienhold, instead, the second annular projection 12 is threaded into the first projection of casing 14, thereby requiring a rotation effort instead of a purely axial pressure. Mounting of the equipment according to the present invention is therefore easier and faster than in Wienhold.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

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However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By: John C. Holman
John C. Holman
Reg. No. 22,769

Customer No.: 00136
400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Tel. (202) 638-6666
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JLS/kad